Thank you for your willingness to participate in the upcoming CANUSLANT 2002 exercise which will be held June 25-27, 2002, at the Algonquin Hotel in St. Andrews, New Brunswick. As has been indicated in previous communications about this exercise, the format for CANUSLANT 2002 will consist of a tabletop exercise, followed by a series of facilitated breakout sessions focusing on a series of issues identified as priorities by the U.S./Canadian Joint Response Team for the Atlantic Region.

The purpose of this email is to provide you the following three items:

1) Your issue group assignment for the breakout portion of the exercise.
2) Background papers on the priority issues developed by the exercise design team members.
3) An updated schedule for exercise participants

For the purpose of the breakout sessions, you have been assigned to the Joint Environmental Section issues group. The specific discussion papers for that issues group are attached to this e-mail. If you feel that you would be better assigned to another issues group, please let me know. Also, if there is an issue that you feel is of great importance and is not included in the discussion papers, please prepare an outline of this issue in the format provided and e-mail it to me. We will then try to add it to the group discussions during the exercise.

Attached are the issue papers for your assigned issues group as well as an exercise schedule for CANUSLANT 2002. Please note that the times on the agenda are in Atlantic time (one hour ahead of Eastern Time).

- Aquaculture and commercial fisheries
- Shoreline Treatment and Treatment Termination End Points
- Oiled Wildlife
- Wildlife Response – Do we treat?
- JEERT Coordination
    - Former JEERT plan section
    - Proposed JES plan section
    - REET-JEERT factsheet
    - Scientific Support Team factsheet
- Revised CANUSLANT 2002 Schedule of Events

If you have any questions concerning the exercise or your participation, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 902-426-6035 or by email at SpicerG@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca. You may also contact Lieutenant Commander Joseph Gleason (USCG) by phone at 617-223-8586 or by email at jgleason@d1.uscg.mil.

Thank you again for participating in CANUSLANT. We look forward to an excellent exercise.

Sincerely,
Garnet L. Spicer
A/Regional Exercise Officer
Rescue, Safety & Environmental Response
Coast Guard Maritimes
Phone: (902) 426-6035
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CANUSLANT 2002

June 25 - 27, 2002

St. Andrews, New Brunswick

Issue Paper

Topic

Aquaculture and commercial fisheries.

Assigned Discussion Group

Joint Environmental Section

Issue

This issues encompasses protection priorities of penned aquaculture, decisions to close and subsequently reopen controlled fisheries and aquaculture and fishermen notification and management within joint fisheries areas

Background

The shared Atlantic boundary waters of the United States and Canada have an abundant and valuable commercial fishing and aquaculture industry. Were a significant oil spill to occur, the quality of the fish caught and grown in the area would be called into question by buyers. Even though oil tainting of fish rarely reaches levels of concern to the public health community, it can alter the taste and odor sufficiently to devastate local markets (e.g.: T/V *Braer* spill, Scotland and T/B *North Cape*, Rhode Island). Often simply the perception by buyers that fish have been tainted can eliminate trade until they are reassured either by chemical or sensory analysis.

Because the US and Canadian fishing and aquaculture industries share the same waters, it is critical to have coordinated protocols for both the closure and reopening of harvesting during and following a spill. The criteria and triggers for these decisions must take into account losses to the industry due to closure, but must also be sensitive enough to assure buyers that no tainted fish will reach the marketplace from the waters of either country. This level of confidence can only be achieved by arriving at mutually accepted protocols.

Design Team Point of Contact

Name: Steve Lehmann **Phone:** 617-223-8016 **Email:** steve.lehmann@noaa.gov

CANUSLANT 2002

June 25 - 27, 2002

St. Andrews, New Brunswick

Issue Paper

Topic

Shoreline Treatment and Treatment Termination End Points

Assigned Discussion Group

Joint Environmental Section

Issue

Shoreline cleanup/treatment end-points and cleanup/treatment methods. This addresses the joint decision-making on oiled shorelines, including SCAT, chemical cleaners, priorities and termination of treatment.

Background

Most oil spills require some level of shoreline cleanup or treatment. The extent and intensity of this cleanup or treatment is a function of the volume spilled, the material spilled (oil type), the habitat or substrate impacted, the degree of impact and the approved method of treatment. The final determination in the cleanup matrix of decisions is when to end operations.

It is well accepted that cleanup activities can and do disturb habitats, occasionally to a greater extent than the oil itself. It is further understood that natural attenuation of the oil occurs, often rapidly, and that there can be a net beneficial environmental trade-off to choosing this option over mechanical cleanup. Most frequently, a combination of these two methods is applied, where mechanical cleanup is pursued to the point of (a) no longer being effective or (b) suspected of causing more harm to the habitat than the oil. The challenge, of course, is determining where that point is and achieving consensus among stakeholders with varying and, often conflicting, priorities. This is particularly true in the international boundary water of the US and Canada.

Given that the injury of an important habitat within the shared waters area can have an impact on the resources of both countries, close communication relative to treatment methodologies and treatment termination is critical. Pre-determined protocols and decision trees will help this process.

Design Team Point of Contact

Name: Stephen Lehmann **Phone:** 617-223-8016 **Email:** steve.lehmann@noaa.gov

CANUSLANT 2002

June 25 - 27, 2002
St. Andrews, New Brunswick

Issue Paper

Topic
Oiled Wildlife

Assigned Discussion Group
Joint Environmental Section

Issue
Development of an appropriate response to oiled wildlife, both birds and marine mammals.

Background
"Often, individual oil spills do not pose a significant risk to migratory bird populations so the initiation of oiled bird cleaning and rehabilitation is done, not for conservation purposes, but to satisfy other objectives. The end goal of cleaning and rehabilitating birds is to have these animals successfully re-enter the breeding population - a task that is difficult and costly, and can be biologically, socially and politically controversial." (National Policy on Oiled Birds and Oiled Species at Risk, Canadian Wildlife Service, January 2000)

Discussion Issues:

- identification of the appropriate agencies and interested parties
- development of a consistent policy for use in oiled wildlife response
- identification of issues preventing development of such a policy

Design Team Point of Contact

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CANUSLANT 2002

June 25 - 27, 2002
St. Andrews, New Brunswick

Issue Paper

Topic
Wildlife Response – Do we treat?

Assigned Discussion Group
Joint Environmental Section / Joint Response Team

Issue
1. What are the priorities during oiled wildlife response situations?
2. What wildlife response capabilities (staff, facilities, and equipment) are required/expected?
3. What are the response policy and priority conflicts between Canada and the U.S. (rehabilitation or euthanization)?
4. What are the requirements for expedient and capable response?

Background
Oiled wildlife response capabilities on the east coast of Canada are limited to the Canadian Wildlife Services' administration of the Migratory Birds Convention Act which requires the management and conservation of migratory bird populations as well as the responsibility of endangered species under the federal Species at Risk Act. The Canadian Wildlife Act broadens this responsibility providing mechanisms for habitat and all wildlife conservation.

To date CWS uses the 'time to recovery' criteria, which essentially dictate response priorities, based on species abundance and population re-establishment time. During a response situation CWS may require specific actions from response organizations but at minimum must provide approval for all initiatives taken by agencies, organizations and individuals with regard to migratory birds including prevention of further oiling, salvage of birds, euthanization or cleaning.

Design Team Point of Contact
Name: Susan Farquharson **Phone:** (506) 755-6001 **Email:** ecwinc@nbnet.nb.ca

CANUSLANT 2002

June 25 - 27, 2002

St. Andrews, New Brunswick

Issue Paper

Topic

JEERT Coordination

Assigned Discussion Group

Joint Environmental Section

Issue

Acceptance of the JEERT model identified in Annex N of the Atlantic Operational Supplement; or development and acceptance of an alternative model, which would then be incorporated into the Supplement.

Background

The Atlantic Operational Supplement, Annex N, states:

- Environmental input to the JPT, the OSC/FMO, and operational field groups shall be coordinated by the JEERT.
- The JEERT shall be comprised of the various agencies of both countries which have expertise, information, and responsibility/authority relevant to environmental emergencies, and shall be chaired by the Senior Representative of the country of the origin of the spill and co-chaired by the other country.
- Representatives of the JEERT will participate as a member of the OSCs' staff. The first priority of JEERT is to satisfy the requirements of the OSC during pollution emergency response.
- All reasonable efforts will be made by the JEERT co-chairs to ensure that the appropriate Canadian and US experts supporting the JEERT are in close communication during the development of the JEERT advice and information for the OSCs and the JRT.
- Where practical, the scientific and technical experts supporting the JEERT by participation in the subcommittees of the JEERT will deal directly with each other to develop and deliver to the JEERT the appropriate facts, opinions and information. Co-location of experts may be requested where warranted.

In previous CANUSLANT exercises, coordination of and communication between environmental agencies within JEERT has been haphazard, at best. While the co-chairs have been in active communication, the other Canadian and US agencies tended to operate according to the incident management model used by each country, versus according to the Atlantic Operational Supplement.

Design Team Point of Contact

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Annex N: ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES / JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (JEERT)

1. ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES

Environmental imput to the Joint Preparedness Team (JPT), the OSC/FMO and operational field groups shall be co-ordinated by the "Joint Environmental Emergency Response Team"(JEERT).

The JEERT shall be comprised of the various agencies of both countries which have expertise, information, and responsibility/authority relevant to environmental emergencies, and shall be chaired by the Senior Representative of the country of origin of the spill and co-chaired by the other country. These positions will normally be chaired by Environment Canada(EC) and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency(NOAA) Scientific Support Coordinator, and/or the Environmental Protection Agency(EPA) depending on location of the spill.

The purpose of the JEERT is to provide a mechanism for the provision of consolidated, co-ordinated, comprehensive environmental information and advice concerning environmental impacts, resource sensitivities, environmental forecasting, cleanup techniques, priorities, and other matters which affect or risk environmental quality.

Composition, organization, and membership on the JEERT shall be approved by the co-chairmen of the JPT depending on the requirments of the event.

Representatives of JEERT will participate as a member of the OSCs staff and shall be responsible for facilitating efficient communication of environmental and technical information between the OSC and JEERT.

Briefing of the JPT with regard to environmental concerns shall be done by the Chairperson of the JEERT.

2. JEERT PLANNING AND RESPONSE ELEMENTS

JEERT Operating Procedures. The purpose of this section is to identify the operating principles and procedures which may be used by the Joint Environmental Emergency Response Team(JEERT) during response to pollution incidents for which the Canada-United States Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan(Atlantic Operational Appendix) has been invoked.

Objective of the JEERT. The objective of the Joint Environmental Emergencies Response Team is to protect the quality of the environment through the provision to the OSC(s) of co-ordinated, consolidated and comprehensive environmental information, advice and opinion concerning: the environmental risks, consequences, fate and effects of pollution

emergencies; the priorities, options and effectiveness of pollutant response and cleanup operations; the influence on the environment of all matters related to the pollution incident.

Reporting. The JEERT provides advice and support to both the On-Scene-Commander(OSC) and the Joint Prepardness Team(JPT). The first priority of the JEERT is to satisfy the requirements of the OSC during pollution emergency response.

Principles of JEERT Organization and Operation. The JEERT will normally be chaired by the designated environmental agency of the country leading the joint response to the incident(i.e. NOAA or Environment Canada). The co-chair will be provided by the designated environmental agency from the other country. JEERT will endeavour to ensure effective and efficient communications with the OSC(s) offices at all times. The purpose of the JEERT communications and, where necessary, to provide immediate interpretation and elaboration of JEERT communications for the OSC(s). Significant problems of interpretation or communication with the OSC(s) will be handled directly between the OSC(s) and the JEERT chair or co-chair.

All reasonable efforts will be made by the co-chairs of JEERT to engage in appropriate consultation with each other before provision of advice and other support to the OSC(s) on matters of concern to both countries, and ,where appropriate, on matters more directly pertinent to the country leading the joint response.

JEERT will establish subcommittees according to the needs of the pollution incident.

All reasonable efforts will be made by the JEERT co-chairs to ensure that the appropriate Canadian and US experts supporting the JEERT are in close communication during the development of the JEERT advice and information for the OSC(s) and the JRT.

Where practical, the scientific and technical experts supporting the JEERT by participation in the subcommittees of the JEERT will deal directly with each other to develop and deliver to the JEERT the appropriate facts, opinions and information. Co-location of experts may be requested where warranted.

JEERT Membership. Membership on the JEERT will be provided for in Environmental Agencies, paragraph 2. JEERT, in discussion with the JPT or OSC(s), may supplement the membership, where warranted, with other experts such as may be available.

JEERT Linkages to the OSC(s)/FMO and JPT. Normally, verbal briefings will be provided by the JEERT chair from the lead country, however, the JEERT will operate on the basis that either the chair or co-chair shall be prepared to deliver briefings where circumstances warrant and there has been prior agreement. Verbal briefings to the OSC(s) and JPT will be supported by hard-copy documentation of information and advice, where feasible.

DRAFT

Joint US / Canadian Environmental Section
changes reflect 3/20/00 Dartmouth, NS meeting:
Roger Percy, Sinc Dewis & Stephen Lehmann

When CANUSLANT is invoked an additional section, called the Joint Environmental Section, will be formed as a part of the Incident Command System. The JES will be jointly lead by the NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator and the Chair of the Regional Environmental Emergencies Team (REET). The JES will consist of 2 primary entities, the US Environmental Unit (or Scientific Support Team) and the Canadian Atlantic Regional Environmental Emergencies Team (REET).

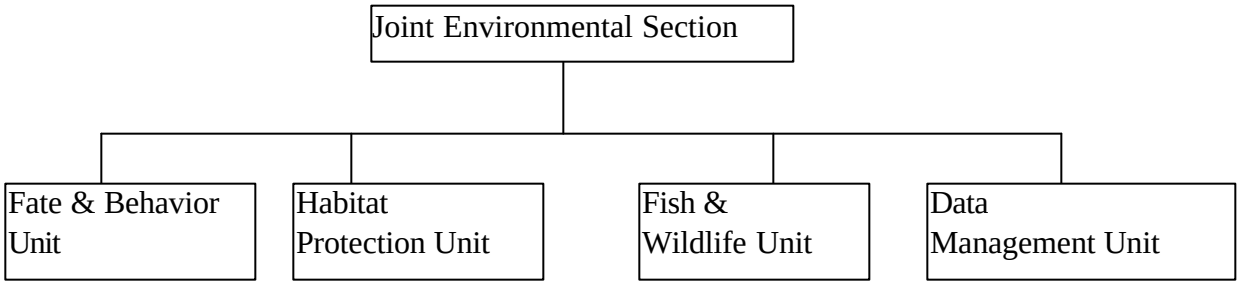
The JES will have four standing units:

Fate & Behavior Unit
(including such responsibilities as: physical sciences, weather, trajectory analysis, spill mapping, chemical properties and circulation studies)

Habitat Protection Unit
(including such responsibilities as: resources at risk determinations, shoreline and habitat protection, shoreline cleanup techniques and shoreline assessment)

Fish & Wildlife Unit
(including such responsibilities as: mobile organisms, fisheries management, wildlife assessment, rescue and rehabilitation)

Data Management Unit
(including such responsibilities as: sampling and analysis management, GIS, mapping, academic/science community liaison, scientific affairs liaison to the Joint Information Center [JIC])



The first priority of the JES will be to establish an International Response Zone (IRZ). This zone will be defined as an area where protection and treatment decisions in one country can impact the environmental resources of the other country. Where practical, recommendations concerning the IRZ will be made jointly from the JES.

The JES will interact closely with both the planning and operations sections of the command structure, as well as the command staff. In addition, JES will act as the central repository and reference resource for scientific and environmental issues and the key command liaison to the scientific and environmental community, including subject-related academics and non-government organizations. As needed, joint US/Canadian task forces may be formed from within the JES in order to address specific command issues such as in-situ burning and dispersant use. Such task

forces will be staffed based on the objectives of the task and the skills of the JES personnel available. These task forces may be temporarily assigned, by the JES leaders, to other sections or units of the command.

Once it is determined by the FOSC and the FMO, with input from the JES, that an IRZ is no longer necessary, the JES will stand down. Following stand down, the US Environmental Unit will become a unit of the US ICS Planning Section and REET will continue its normal operating procedures independent of the US ICS/UCS. Communication will continue, as needed, between personnel in the US Environmental Unit and REET, coordinated by the NOAA SSC and the Chair of REET. Where practical during this period, the US Environmental Unit and REET will exchange liaisons.

THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES TEAM (REET)

The Atlantic Region REET was established in 1973, to provide consolidated environmental advice to the lead government agency and the Responsible Party/On Scene Commander (OSC), and to ensure damage to the environment is minimized while maximizing the use of limited regional resources.

The REET includes representatives from all federal and provincial agencies that have expertise, information or authority relating to environmental protection in the event of an emergency in the Atlantic Region (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador).

Guiding Principles of the Atlantic REET

The Atlantic REET operates under the following guiding principles:

- lead agency concept: the REET operates in support of the lead agency. For each emergency event, there is an agency which has legislated or traditional authority for the emergency; this agency is the "lead agency". Consolidated environmental advice is provided to the lead agency by the REET.
- one window approach: each agency participating in REET is expected to designate one representative. This person will gather pertinent data from within his agency and interest groups for each emergency event and will present these consolidated concerns and comments to the entire REET.
- the team concept: partnerships and cooperation are critical to the success of the REET. Each agency has an equal opportunity for input into the decision-making process. While Environment Canada has the responsibility for establishment of the REETs by the 1973 Cabinet Directive, and in the Atlantic Region, it provides the Chair and Secretariat functions, each REET member has an equal voice.
- flexibility/expandability: all agencies who have jurisdiction or interest in spill incidents are encouraged to be part of a REET response; however, it is not necessary for all REET partners to participate in every emergency event, if they have neither the jurisdiction nor the interest in a particular situation.
- open communication: a free exchange of information between all partners is encouraged. All interests, concerns, and possible areas of dispute are meant to be openly discussed, thereby providing opportunities for resolution.
- provision of consolidated advice: after discussion of all issues, a consolidated set of priorities and advice are presented to the lead agency and/or responsible party/on scene commander for consideration/implementation.

In the response mode, the REET operates as a flexible and expandable team of experts and agency representatives, convened to obtain and provide comprehensive and coordinated environmental advice, information and assistance to the lead agency and the Responsible Party/On Scene Commander in emergency response situations. The REET also acts as a forum for discussion of technical and scientific issues relating to the emergency incident.

The REET also provides advice, information and assistance to senior policy makers, department heads, and the public during spill responses.

Upon the identification of emergency events of actual or potential consequence to the environment, or at the request of the lead agency, key agencies are contacted by Environment Canada and are requested to participate directly in meetings of the REET for the purposes of formulating advice and coordinating environmental information. Often, the individuals representing member agencies or scientific disciplines at the REET are called upon both as specialists in relevant subjects, and as coordinators of the various scientific and technical experts and information sources within the agencies which they represent.

For most emergency events, the REET is comprised of a core group of representatives from Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and the appropriate provincial environment department.

As far as possible, the REET operates by an optimum mix of face-to-face meetings and electronic communications. Team members are normally drawn from the province in which the emergency event is occurring, as these individuals would possess the necessary local knowledge and expertise. Other agencies or specialists may be requested or may request to become involved in the REET as needs become identified or anticipated.

While an opportunity is also provided for indirectly involved agencies to participate or observe the REET, the effective and efficient functioning of REET in the response mode is of primary consideration; numbers of participants and peripheral issues are constantly evaluated to ensure the primary scientific and technical focus of REET is maintained

International Events (Canada and the United States)

Agreements are in place between Canada and the United States to facilitate response to incidents that impact both countries. These include the Canada/US Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan, and the Canada/US Joint Inland Boundary Pollution Plan.

In an international marine or land-based emergency situation, the country leading the response provides the organizational structure through which environmental advice is offered to the OSC and the Joint Preparedness Team (JPT).

In the Atlantic Region of Canada and the United States, agreement has led to the formation of a Joint Environmental Emergency Response Team (JEERT) which facilitates the provision of consolidated environmental advice from both countries. For spills originating in Canada which threaten US waters, the REET Chair will chair the JEERT and his US counterpart will act as the Deputy Chair. For a spill originating in the US and threatening Canadian resources, the positions are reversed.

Scientific Support Team (United States)

The concept of the Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC) and subsequently, the Scientific Support Team, was first realized in 1978 during the Argo Merchant spill in the coastal waters of Massachusetts. The following year the SSC was codified in the US National Contingency Plan as the US Coast Guard's on-scene coordinator's (OSC) chief scientific advisor and liaison to the scientific community for during spills in the coastal waters of the United States.

The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Scientific Support program is a national team of experts located in Seattle, Washington with nine SSCs located in various coastal cities throughout the USA. The role of the SSC during a spill is to assemble and manage a team of specialists from in-house resources (included several contract scientific organizations such Louisiana State University). The team is selected by the SSC at time of spill notification and augmented as circumstances dictate during the response. Normally the team in composed of an "away team" and a "home team." The "home team" remains in Seattle (or other location) and is connected to the spill via conference calls and electronic mail. The "away team" is individuals who are brought on scene to provide certain needed expertise (e.g.: oil fate modeling and mapping, chemical analysis, biological sampling). Along with the NOAA teams, the SSC coordinates federal, state, local and academic scientific resources, as needed, in order to address specific spill related issues. As the SSC has no specific statutory authorities, output to the OSC is in the form of options and recommendations resulting from consensus achieved among an ad-hoc, issue-specific team. For example, the decision to use or not use dispersants may involve state and federal agency resource managers, a NOAA/SST oceanographer and biologist and the SSC. All options are presented, even those considered less desirable. In this way the OSC can compare recommended actions to the universe of options available.

The Scientific Support Team does not operate as a standing, convened team, even during a spill. Team members are deployed where their skills are needed, for example, modeling specialists are often deployed to the Operations Section in order to conduct overflights and update trajectory models, while coastal habitat specialists will assist the Planning Section in developing shoreline treatment protocols and conducting shoreline assessments. Findings and plans are reported back to the SSC periodically who coordinates these data and activities.

The SSC and his/her team also act as a technical advisor to the Regional Response Team (RRT) and the Joint US/Canadian Response Team (JRT). Although the SSC is provided by NOAA, he/she does not speak for the agency on issues of policy. Designated Natural Resources Trustees are consulted on marine and terrestrial policy (NOAA for marine resources, Dept. of the Interior for terrestrial and avian resources). The SSC is charged with coordinating and reporting scientific and environmental issues in an agency non-specific, objective manner.

As the science advisor to the US OSC, the SSC is on the US OSC's Command Staff, and frequently at his/her side. The SSC's duties may include overflights, shoreline assessment, press/media interaction, stakeholder coordination, interface with academics or anything other task or issue that the OSC requires such expertise.